



1. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for generating oscillatory air pulses in a bladder positioned about a person, comprising:

an oscillatory air flow generator, comprising

an air chamber;

a reciprocating diaphragm operably connected with the air chamber;

a rod having a first end and a second end, the first end operably connected with the diaphragm, and the rod extending generally orthogonal to the diaphragm;

a crankshaft operably connected with the second end of the rod and extending generally orthogonal to the rod; and

a first motor operably connected with the crankshaft, the first motor including an armature axially aligned with the crankshaft;

a [positive] continuous air flow generator operably connected with the oscillatory air flow generator; and

[control means] a first feedback and control means operably connected with the oscillatory air flow generator for maintaining the frequency of the oscillatory air flow generator at a predetermined value;

and a second feedback and control means operably connected with the [positive] continuous air flow generator for [controlling] continuously varying the output pressure of the continuous air flow generator in order to maintain the peak pressure generated by the positive air flow generator at a predetermined value.

3. (Amended) The apparatus of claim [4] 1 wherein the first feedback and control means [circuit] comprises:

means for detecting the oscillation rate in the air chamber;

means for comparing the oscillation rate with [a] the predetermined [rate] value; and

means for adjusting the oscillatory air flow generator so that the detected oscillation rate approximately equals the predetermined [rate] value.

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B³ 10. (Twice Amended) The apparatus of claim [4] 1 further comprising a frequency selector, allowing a user to select the predetermined frequency.

B³ 11. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the [positive] continuous air flow generator comprises a blower, and a second motor operably connected with the blower.

4 12. (Amended) The apparatus of claim [8] 1 wherein the second feedback and control means [circuit] comprises:

B⁴ means for detecting the peak pressure in the air chamber;

means for comparing the detected peak pressure with [a] the predetermined value; and

means for adjusting the [positive] continuous air flow generator so that the detected peak pressure equals the predetermined value.

9 10. (Twice Amended) The apparatus of claim [8] 1 further comprising a pressure selector, allowing a user to select the predetermined peak pressure.

B⁵ 10 11. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a remote start/stop control operably connected with the first and second feedback and control means.

Remarks

Applicants have amended claims 1, 5-7, 9, 10, and 13, and cancelled claims 4, 8, and 22, to place the application in condition for allowance. No new matter is added by these amendments. Regarding claim 1, the continuous nature of the baseline air flow generator was disclosed in the application as originally filed (e.g., page 10, line 8 to page 11, line 11). The first and second feedback and control means combine limitations found previously in dependent claims (4 and 8, now cancelled) and more clearly recites the functionality performed by the related structure. The remaining claim amendments reflect the cancelled claims and new claim language found in claim 1.

Priority

Applicants have amended the specification to show that the parent application has issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,769,797.